

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (Previously Presented) A pointing device that can be operated to move an operational object on a display screen in any 360-degree direction, comprising:

a control unit changing an operation mode of said pointing device according to a positional orientation of contents displayed on said display screen at the time said pointing device is operated,

wherein said control unit determines a direction in which said operational object can be moved on said display screen according to said operation mode to limit the movement of the operational object on the display screen to less than the 360-degree direction based on the positional orientation of contents displayed on the display screen.

2 – 8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) A pointing device according to claim 30, wherein said moving amount adjusting means moves said operational object by the predetermined step value when the amount of operation of said pointing device takes the maximum value.

10. (Previously Presented) A pointing device according to claim 30, wherein said moving amount adjusting means move said operational object by the predetermined step value when the amount of operation of said pointing device exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

11-16. (Canceled).

17. (Original) A mobile telephone comprising a pointing device according to claim 1.

18-19. (Canceled).

20. (Original) A mobile telephone according to claim 17, wherein said control unit is constituted in a main control unit of said mobile telephone.

21-22. (Canceled).

23. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling a pointing device that can be operated to move an operational object on a display screen in any 360-degree direction, comprising the controlling step of:

changing an operational mode of said pointing device in advance according to a positional orientation of contents displayed on said display screen at the time said pointing device is operated,

wherein a direction in which said operational object can be moved on said display screen is determined according to said operation mode to limit the movement of the operational object on the display screen to less than the 360-degree direction based on the positional orientation of contents displayed on the display screen.

24. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling a pointing device according to claim 31, wherein the pointing device can be operated to move said operational object at any speed, and wherein

said controlling step has the moving amount adjusting step of moving said operational object by a constant step value when said pointing device is operated in a predetermined operational mode.

25. (Previously Presented) A mobile telephone, comprising:

a pointing device that can be operated to move an operational object on a display screen in any 360-degree direction; and

a control unit changing an operation mode of said pointing device according to a positional orientation of contents displayed on said display screen at the time said pointing device is operated,

wherein said control unit determines a direction in which said operational object can be moved on said display screen according to said operation mode to limit the movement of the

operational object on the display screen to less than the 360-degree direction based on the positional orientation of contents displayed on the display screen.

26. (Canceled).

27. (Previously Presented) A mobile telephone according to claim 32, wherein said moving amount adjusting means move said operational object by the predetermined step value when the amount of operation of said pointing device takes the maximum value.

28. (Previously Presented) A mobile telephone according to claim 27, wherein said moving amount adjusting means move said operational object by the predetermined step value when the amount of operation of said pointing device exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

29. (Previously Presented) A mobile telephone according to claim 25, wherein said control unit is constituted in a main control unit of said mobile telephone.

30. (Previously Presented) A mobile telephone according to claim 17, wherein said control unit defines the direction in advance in which said operational object can be moved on said display screen, as a current direction in which said pointing device can be operated and has a moving amount adjusting means for moving said operation object by a predetermined step value wherein the control unit outputs a signal to move the operational object in a predetermined manner in a menu representation on the display screen in accordance with a continuous signal from said pointing device for a predetermined time period.

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein said direction in which said operational object can be moved on said display screen is defined as a current direction in which said pointing device can be operated.

32. (Previously Presented) A mobile telephone according to claim 25, wherein said control unit defines the direction in which said operational object can be moved on said display screen as a current direction in which said pointing device can be operated and has a moving amount adjusting means for moving said operation object by a predetermined step value, wherein the control unit outputs a signal to move the operational object in a predetermined

manner in the menu representation on the display screen in accordance with a continuous signal from said pointing device for a predetermined time period.

33. (Previously Presented) A pointing device according to claim 1, wherein when said display screen displays icons, the movement of the operational object is limited to only the direction in which the icons are arranged.

34. (Previously Presented) A pointing device according to claim 1, wherein based on the contents displayed on said display screen, the movement of the operational object is limited to one or more of horizontal, vertical or diagonal directions on the display screen.

35. (Previously Presented) A mobile communication apparatus, comprising:
a pointing device configured to operate an operational object on a display screen of the mobile communication apparatus; and

a control unit configured to switch an operation mode of the pointing device between a mode in which the operational object has 360-degree movement on the display screen and a mode in which the operational object is limited to less than 360-degree movement on the display screen according to an application that is running on the mobile communication apparatus at the time the pointing device is operated.